

XXXII.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.**Babault on Indian Birds.*

[Recherches Zoologiques dans les provinces centrales de l'Inde et dans les régions occidentales de l'Himalaya. Par Guy Babault. Pp. iv + 238; 80 photos, 4 maps. Paris (Plon), 1921. 8vo.]

[Mission Guy Babault dans les provinces centrales de l'Inde dans la région occidentale de l'Himalaya et Ceylan 1914. Résultats scientifiques. Oiseaux par G. Babault. Pp. 1-342; photos, 6 col. pls., 2 maps. Paris, 1920. 4to.]

In these two handsome volumes M. Guy Babault has given us an account of his journey to India, undertaken in the interest of the Museum in Paris, to make collections of the flora and fauna of the far east in 1914. Unfortunately the mission was interfered with by the outbreak of the war, which found M. Babault and his party in Ladak on the Tibet border and prevented him from completing his plans, which included a visit to Ceylon, Java, and Sumatra.

The first of the two volumes contains a general account of M. Babault's travels, the second one is the report on the collection of birds: these are arranged in three groups—those from the Central Provinces, those from the Himalaya, and those obtained during a previous visit to Ceylon. Under each species is given a list of localities, and careful notes on the colours of the soft parts, of the condition of the genital organs, and the contents of the stomach, with other valuable information.

The following are described as novelties:—*Otocorys wellsii* from Rukshu on the Kashmir-Tibetan border, and *Dicaeum erythrorhynchus ceylonensis* from Ceylon; while *Scotocichla fuscicapilla babaulti* was described in the Bulletin of the B. O. C. by Mr. T. Wells from specimens in M. Babault's collection.

The coloured plates illustrate the new forms, *Lophophanes rufonuchalis* and *Callacanthis burtoni* Oates, as well as a curious hybrid between *Lanius nigriceps* and *L. erythronotus*; and two excellent maps show in great detail the taken route and localities visited.

M. Babault in his introduction acknowledges the great assistance he has had from Mr. T. Wells of the British Museum, and we may conclude by congratulating the author on the very fine and valuable piece of work he has accomplished and the magnificent form in which it has been presented to the public.

Bangs on Philippine Birds.

[Notes on Philippine Birds collected by Governor W. Cameron Forbes. By Outram Bangs. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. lxx. 1922, pp. 77-84.]

In this short paper Mr. Bangs lists and comments on some of the birds collected by Mr. Forbes, a former Governor of the Philippine Islands, which have been presented by him to the Museum at Harvard. Several new forms are proposed, including one new species—*Zosterops forbesi* from Camiguin Island.

Bangs, Penard, and Kennard's recent papers.

[The name of the eastern Hermit-Thrush. By Outram Bangs and Thomas E. Penard. Auk, xxxviii. 1921, pp. 432-434.]

[Descriptions of six new subspecies of American birds. *Ibid.* Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, 1921, pp. 89-92.]

[A list of the birds of Jamaica. By Outram Bangs and Frederic H. Kennard in: The Handbook of Jamaica, 1920, pp. 1-18. Kingston (Govt. Printing Office), 1920.]

In the first note, Messrs. Bangs and Penard discuss the name of the common Hermit-Thrush of the eastern United States. They find that the name usually used (*Hylocichla guttata pallasi*) is really a pure synonym of the typical Alaskan race, *Hylocichla g. guttata* (Pallas), and that a new name is required. They propose *H. g. faxoni*, after the late Dr. Walter Faxon, a well-known American ornithologist, who drew their attention to this error in nomenclature.

The second note contains descriptions of new subspecies of *Geranoospiza*, *Otus*, *Mecocerculus*, *Nuttalornis*, *Melanotis*, and *Tangara*, from various localities between California and British Guiana.

The last list of the birds of Jamaica was that drawn up by the late Dr. P. L. Selater (see 'Ibis,' 1910, p. 562). It contained the names of 194 species. The present one contains 219 species and subspecies, of which, however, 26 are doubtful and 3 introduced. Of the others, 81 are winter visitors from the north; 5 summer visitors only, breeding and migrating south in autumn; 52 are resident breeding-species not confined to the island; and 52 are residents peculiar to the island. Of this last category five are believed to be extinct.

The list gives the scientific and vernacular names and a short account of the status of each form: the nomenclature and classification are based on Ridgway's 'Birds of Middle and North America.' It will undoubtedly prove of great interest to all visitors to and residents in Jamaica.

Bannerman on the Birds of Southern Nigeria.

[The Birds of Southern Nigeria, including a detailed review of the races of species known to occur there. By David A. Bannerman, M.B.E., etc., etc. With Notes on the Topography of the Country, by Robin Kemp and Willoughby P. Lowe. Rev. Zool. Afr. Bruxelles, ix. 1921, pp. 254-426.]

Little has been written on the birds of Southern Nigeria, which occupies the coast-line of the middle of the Gulf of Guinea between the two former German colonies of Togoland and Cameroon. Most students of African birds will have noticed that the species and subspecies of birds inhabiting what are known as Upper and Lower Guinea are frequently different, and it is of considerable interest to find out where these two faunas meet and whether the races intergrade or not. This problem will be largely solved by the study of the birds of Southern Nigeria. The present paper is based primarily on a collection made by Mr. Willoughby Lowe at the Iju waterworks near the town of Lagos in 1920, while the information derived from other collections made by Mr. Robin Kemp in 1905 and Mr. P. A. Talbot, the well-known worker in Anthropology, has been utilized.

The present instalment of the paper contains an account

of the Passerine birds only, leaving the non-Passerine groups until a later date. The work is done very thoroughly and completely, and the races of each species are listed with their distinguishing characters and their ranges. We find only one new race described in the present paper, *Tschagra senegala chadensis*, though a good number have been described in the 'Bulletin,' some as recently as January of this year, so that the paper could not have been published in 1921 as stated on the cover. Authors and editors should be more careful in dating their papers correctly, as a wrong date so often lands us in confusion. Judging by the many misprints, the Belgian printers seem to have found some trouble in setting up a paper in the English language.

Baxter and Rintoul on Scottish Ducks.

[Some Scottish breeding Ducks: their arrival and dispersal. By Evelyn V. Baxter and Leonora Jeffrey Rintoul. Pp. viii + 90. Edinburgh (Oliver and Boyd), 1922. 8vo.]

This little work contains a carefully compiled account of the present and past distribution of nine species of Ducks, which have all greatly increased their breeding-range in Scotland during the last half century. These species are the Gadwall, Wigeon, Shoveler, Pintail, Pochard, Eider, Scoter, Goosander, and Red-breasted Goosander. The accounts of the first four have already appeared in the pages of the 'Scottish Naturalist,' and are here reprinted with additional notes. The great increase in the breeding-range of so many of our native ducks is most satisfactory, and the causes which have contributed to it are discussed in the final chapter. Bird-protection, the depopulation of the country districts of Scotland, the improved facilities for transport which have brought a plentiful supply of cheap food to remote districts, and several minor causes have all contributed to bring about this happy result, and we are much indebted to the authors of this work for the careful way in which they have marshalled all the available records and facts, and traced the lines of advance and dispersal of the different species.

Beebe's new volume of essays.

[The Edge of the Jungle. By William Beebe, Author of 'Jungle Peace,' etc. Pp. 237; with Index and Glossary. London (Witherby), 1922. 8vo. Price 12s. 6d.]

In the manufacture of books from material previously published, there are at least two methods known among authors. The writer may assemble, under a title indicative of the character or scope of the collection, a series of reprints of articles that he has written for one or more magazines, and publish them *in puribus*—frankly as separates—drawing attention to their source in a foreword, and, it may be, adding to the headings in the table of contents the name of the journals from which they were borrowed. Such an assemblage has often served a most useful purpose, and author, publisher, and reader may feel that the compilation at least makes no pretence to first-hand production. There is, however, a second method of republication that does not make the same appeal, and which, it must be confessed, seems difficult to reconcile with the literary conscience. In this case the writer suppresses entirely the fact that most or all of his work has seen the light of publication, and, while utilizing the essentials of these contributions to periodical literature, so camouflages the whole by re-paragraphing the text, deleting chapter numbers, substituting quotation marks for italics, adding a few illustrations, altering the phraseology of a few sentences (or even by the addition of a few columns of new matter), that the book has all the seeming of a fresh publication. This last plan is, we regret to say, the one chosen by Mr. Beebe.

Whatever opinion may be held as to this policy of lifting one's own goods from the literary counter, it hardly appears necessary to disguise the origin of so many of the chapters in the work under review, if for no other reason than that the 'Atlantic Monthly,' admirable magazine as it is, can rarely be found on the tables of British readers. In any case, those who have not discovered these papers in the periodical just mentioned will be indebted to the author

for even a second-hand acquaintance with what is certainly an interesting recital of the experiences in South America of a naturalist so well-known as the director of the New York Zoological Station in British Guiana. The dozen essays that constitute 'The Edge of the Jungle' are what in scientific parlance one may term "popular," and that is a sufficient reason for not holding the author to strict account (from the zoological standpoint) for statements that might otherwise warrant criticism. Mr. Beebe should also be permitted the license that accompanies the poetic imagination, whose value is, doubtless, greater in purely literary than it is presumed to be in the more prosaic and circumscribed study of systematic faunal life. In spite of language that is frequently involved and obscure, but which one may overlook as an attempt to express in words some of the problems of, let us say, transcendental biology, there are many attractive descriptions of exotic scenes in this collection; and we are glad to find in the series "A Jungle Clearing" and "Sequels," reprinted from the 'Atlantic' for January 1920 and December 1921 respectively. These and most of the other chapters furnish a graphic account of several aspects of wild life in the tropics, and will be read with both pleasure and profit by everyone interested in the abundant flora and fauna of that fascinating region.

Bent on the habits of North American Gulls.

[Life-histories of North American Gulls and Terns. Order Longipennes. By Arthur Cleveland Bent. Bulletin no. 113, Smithsonian Institution. United States National Museum, pp. x+345; 38 col. pls. (eggs); 77 pls. (photos). Washington, 8vo.]

This volume is the second portion of a projected work on the life-history of North American birds, the first part of which, dealing with the Pygopodes (Auks, Loons, and Grebes), was published in 1919 as Bulletin no. 107.

Mr. Bent has been able to secure the assistance of a great many contributors of notes and data, as well as of photographs, and with the help of a considerable body of published matter

has been able to weave a wonderfully complete account of the habits of the Gulls of North America. He himself has also travelled widely over this vast area, and many of the recorded observations and the photographs are contributed by himself. Under each bird are paragraphs on the nesting-habits, eggs, habits of young, plumages, food, general behaviour, voice, food and distribution, and the whole forms a mine of information about the activities of these birds from every point of view.

There are a large number of photographs of nests and eggs and of characteristic scenes, and a large proportion of these were taken by Mr. Bent himself. The eggs of all the species are illustrated by a fine series of coloured plates, apparently prepared and photographed direct from the eggs selected from the collection of the United States National Museum; they are very satisfactory, except that the shadow-shading has rather an artificial appearance.

Chance on the Cuckoo.

[The Cuckoo's Secret. By Edgar Chance, M.B.O.U. Pp. xiv & 239; 9 photos; 2 plans. London (Sedgwick and Jackson), 1922. 8vo. Price 7s. 6d.]

In this little book the author gives us the result of several years' observation on the manner in which an individual Cuckoo deposited its eggs in the foster-parent's nest. Too high praise can hardly be given to the patient and methodical way in which his observations were carried out, whilst the valuable information so obtained has been recorded in an admirable manner, the author showing how an oologist can work in a scientific manner and for a scientific purpose. It is, perhaps, only when he generalizes on the result of his work that one feels his deductions are drawn from the acts of a single Cuckoo, which has laid its eggs under more or less artificial conditions. Even, however, if the author's new facts are not all quite so new to others as they were to himself, the net result is a very interesting addition to our knowledge of the domestic economy of the Cuckoo and a book which will interest anyone who reads it.

Chapman's recent papers.

[The distribution of the Swallows of the genus *Pygochelidon*, no. 30, pp. 1-16. Descriptions of apparently new birds from Colombia, Ecuador, and Argentine, no. 31, pp. 1-8. By Frank M. Chapman. Amer. Mus. Novit. 1922.]

In the first paper there is an interesting discussion of the relationships and phylogeny of this little group of Neotropical Swallows. Mr. Chapman finds that *P. cyanoleuca* is largely confined to the mountainous area of the subtropical zone of South America, and is not generally distributed as usually stated. *P. p. patagonica* appears to be a species breeding in the southern temperate zone from southern Peru to Patagonia, and visiting farther north. Two new forms are proposed—*P. p. peruviana* from western Peru but not ranging up to high altitudes, and *P. flavipes*, a new and distinct species, but founded on only one example from the Prov. Junin in Peru, at 10,800 ft. elevation.

The second paper contains preliminary descriptions of new species and subspecies of *Zenaida*, *Oreopelia*, *Jacana*, *Rupornis*, *Ciccaba*, *Glaucidium*, and *Grallaricula* from various localities, and is incidental to the preparation of a report on the distribution of bird-life in Ecuador, which we hope shortly to see published.

Finn's Birds of our Country.

[Birds of our Country. By Frank Finn. With about 800 illustrations and numerous coloured plates. Pt. 1, pp. 1-40. London (Hutchinson).]

This is an essentially popular book on British Birds, prepared by Mr. Frank Finn, and profusely illustrated with half-tone reproductions of photographs by various artists. The matter is arranged alphabetically, beginning with the "Accentor, Alpine," and carrying us on in the present part to the "Capercaillie." The pictures do not seem to correspond with the text very accurately, as the photographs of the Capercaillies appear on p. 30, while the text is to be found on p. 40—a bad arrangement, which does not conduce to easy reference. The work will undoubtedly form, when complete, a wonderful storehouse of bird-pictures. There

are two coloured plates in the present number, one of a Hoopoe in flight, another of the eggs of various British Birds.

Grinnell's recent papers.

[Concerning the status of the supposed two races of the Long-billed Curlew. By Joseph Grinnell. *Condor*, xxiii. 1921, pp. 21-27.]

[A striking case of adventitious coloration. *Id.* *Auk*, xxxviii. 1921, pp. 129-131.]

[The principle of "rapid peering" in birds. *Id.* *Univ. California Chronicle*, 1921, pp. 392-396.]

[Some birds of the Yosemite National Park. By J. Grinnell and T. I. Storer, from Hall's Handbook of Yosemite National Park, pp. 133-152; 3 photos. New York (Putnam), 1921.]

The first of these articles sets out to refute the suggested division of the Curlew, *Numenius americanus*, into two sub-specific races, advocated by Messrs. Bishop, Oberholser, and Ridgway. Mr. Grinnell certainly seems to show that sufficient evidence has not yet been forthcoming to distinguish two races, although there is much variation in dimensions among these birds, but the material used has been almost entirely taken during migration and not in the breeding-areas.

The second note deals with a pair of Tits (*Baeolophus inornatus*), which the writer obtained near Berkeley in California and which were bright yellow on the underparts. Some suggested a mutation, some a tropical species, but the explanation appears to be staining with the spores of a slime-mould (*Myxomycetes*).

In the third article, Mr. Grinnell discusses two very different types of behaviour in regard to the obtaining of food by birds: the one in which the bird perches or stands and waits for the approach of its prey, such as a Blackbird, a Flycatcher, or a Heron, to take European examples; the other, in which the bird is always in motion, and appears to be of a nervous fidgety temperament, and is always seeking for some stationary objects. Such are the Tits and Golden-crested Wrens. To this latter class, Mr. Grinnell applies the expression "the principle of rapid peering." These

principles are discussed and applied, and lead Mr. Grinnell to the conclusion of the enormous importance of the struggle for existence among birds—a factor in evolution much sneered at by some of our modern writers.

The last item is a little popular sketch of the bird-life of the beautiful Yosemite National Park, one of the glories of California and visited by increasing numbers of tourists and travellers every year.

Grote's translations of Russian Memoirs.

[Aus der ornithologischen Litteratur Russlands. Berichte und Übersetzungen. Von Hermann Grote. Nos. iii., iv., 1921, 1922.]

We have two more numbers of the useful translations of Russian papers prepared by Dr. Grote. The first of these contains an essay on the Avifauna of the Government of Tobolsk in western Siberia, based on the papers published by T. Slowzow, M. Russki, and K. Derjugin between 1892 and 1897, and more recently by W. Uschakov; also another list of the birds of part of the Wologda Government in north-eastern Russia, besides a paper by W. Andrejew and V. Bianchi published in 1910, to which is attached a description of a new race of Sparrow-Hawk (*Accipiter nisus peregrinoides*) by Otto Kleinschmidt, based on a bird obtained at Rositten, but supposed to be a wanderer from western Siberia.

The fourth number is specially dedicated to Prof. Schalow on his 70th birthday, and deals with the researches of N. Sarudny on the birds of the Kisyl-kum desert, a desolate district lying to the east of the sea of Aral, and south of the Syr-Darja and the Amu-Darja rivers. It contains a number of interesting observations on the birds of that region not before available to western ornithologists.

Hartert's Palearctic Avifauna.

[Die Vögel der paläarktischen Fauna. Von Dr. Ernst Hartert. Heft. xviii.–xix. (Bd. iii. 4–5) pp. 2149–2328 & i–xii. Berlin (Friedländer), March 1922. 8vo.]

With this number Dr. Hartert ends his long labours,

commenced so far back as 1903. In a prefatory note he states that it has been a labour of love, and hopes that his readers will have as much pleasure in reading it as he has had in writing it. The present part contains the additions and corrections from the genus *Sylvia* to the end of the Game-birds. These are naturally much more numerous for the earlier volumes and bring the whole work up to date. There is also a complete and most useful index to all these volumes. We regret to notice some misprints—such as Bannermann (*sic*) on p. 2018, which we fear will not be well received by our members.

The influence that Dr. Hartert and the Vög. pal. Faun. has exercised on the younger generation of workers in systematic ornithology is beyond all question, and this work will remain for all time a monument of his accurate and careful methods. We are sure that all our fellow-members of the Union will join in offering him their warmest congratulations on the completion of his long task.

Lönnerberg and Rendahl on the birds of Ecuador.

[A contribution to the ornithology of Ecuador. By Einar Lönnerberg and Hjalmar Rendahl. Ark. Zool. Stockholm, vol. 14, no. 25, 1922, pp. 1-87.]

The Museum at Stockholm has recently received a considerable collection of birds from Ecuador, formed by Mr. L. Söderström the well-known Swedish Consul at Quito. The collection is a large one, comprising over four hundred different forms of resident birds, all of which were most carefully labelled with exact localities, and also, a most important point in the case of Andean collections, with the exact altitude. The introduction contains a discussion of the zonal distribution of the birds, in which the facts are carefully compared with those obtained by Mr. Chapman in Colombia and more recently in Peru. The tables given bring out very clearly a great difference between the faunas of the eastern and western sides of the Andean range.

Following the introduction is the enumeration of the species and subspecies collected, with some valuable notes

by Consul Söderström and discussions on taxonomy. Nine new forms are described as follows :—*Nöthocercus plumbeiceps*, *Odontophorus söderströmi*, *Momotus lessoni gualeæ*, *Nyctibius jamaicensis griseus*, *Oreotrochilus chimborazo söderströmi*, *Heliothrix auritus major*, *Pseudocolaptes johnsoni*, *Tityra nigriceps gualeæ*, *Iridophanes pulcherrima gualeæ*, *Pyrrhuloxia rubriceps rufistigmata*.

McGregor and Marshall on Philippine Birds.

[Philippine Birds for boys and girls. By Richard A. McGregor and Elizabeth J. Marshall; with illustrations by Macario Ligaya. Pp. 138; 32 illustr., coloured and plain. Manila (Bureau of Printing), 1922.]

This little work has been prepared by Mr. McGregor and Mrs. Marshall for the use of the children of the Philippine Islands, and gives a charming account of many of the more characteristic features of the birds of those islands. It will undoubtedly be very useful in creating among the school-children of the Philippines, both native and American, an interest in the varied forms and habits of the birds they see around them. Thirty different species are described, and all are figured either in colour or in black and white. With each bird is a simple description and a little story, illustrating its nesting-habits and other characteristic traits. An appendix gives the scientific name and a succinct note on the status of each species. The coloured plates reflect great credit on Mr. Ligaya, who, we suppose, is a Philippino artist.

Mathews on Australian Birds.

[The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Vol. ix. pt. 7, pp. 305-360, pls. 437-442. London (Witherby), Apl. 1922. 4to.]

The plains of Australia are so peculiarly suited to ground-birds that it is not astonishing that we are still occupied with them in this part. The Rufous Song-Lark, which was generically separated by the author as *Macleannania*, is now specifically known as *mathewsi* instead of *rufescens* (pre-occupied), and we are given the generic distinction in full again. Incidentally we are told that *Cinclorhamphus* is a

combination of Latin and Greek roots; but this is a mistaken idea, both roots being Greek.

All these ground-species have most interesting habits, which cannot be detailed here, while not the least important is the Ground-Thrush (*Oreocincla lunata*) named by Latham from the Watling drawings, but subsequently confounded with *O. varia* of Japan. Only one species is now recognized, those formerly proposed being reduced to subspecies, which are invariably inhabitants of damp hill-gullies, and hardly fly at all.

The next genus, *Ephthianura*, is divided into four by Mr. Mathews, each containing a single species of very distinct coloration. Hence we have *E. albifrons*, *Parephthianura tricolor*, *Aurephthianura aurifrons*, and *Leachena crocea*, a set of birds with habits like those of Chats or even Robins, but different notes. The position of this group is very doubtful, but it is an error to place it with *Acanthiza*.

In 1910 was discovered the rare Desert Chat, a denizen of the stony Central Australian table-land. The discoverer, Mr. Love, sent it to Mr. Ashby, who described it as *Ephthianura lovensis*, but North separated it generically as *Ashbyia*. The first examples had strayed to South Australia, but the nest and eggs came from the interior, where they were found by Mr. Waite of Capt. White's Expedition. The part ends with the well-known Australian Reed-Warbler, where we notice that Billberg's *Conopoderus* is substituted for *Acrocephalus* of most authors.

The subspecies in pt. 7 are given as in the author's former lists, but with considerable hesitation in some cases.

Riley's recent papers.

[A new *Dryonastes* from Szechuen, China, pp. 59-60. On *Chlorospingus goeringi* Schlater & Salvin, pp. 61-62. An additional note on the name of the Inca Tern, p. 77. Note on a rare Paroquet from Venezuela, p. 77. Note on *Anas arcuata* Horsfield, p. 78. By J. H. Riley. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 35, 1922.]

In the first note, *Dryonastes grahami*, a very distinct new Laughing Thrush from Mt. Omei in Szechuan, is described.

In the second note, *Chlorospingus goeringi* is made the type of a new genus, *Orospingus*. The third note draws attention to the fact that the generic name of the Inca Tern is *Noddi* Desmurs vice *Inca* Jardine preoccupied. The rare Parrot is one from Venezuela, founded by Ridgway on some trade-skins from an unknown locality, and named *Grammopsittaca lineola maculata*. The correct name is apparently *Bolborhynchus lineolus tigrinus* (Souancé). In the last note Mr. Riley controverts Mr. Mathews' and Dr. Oberholser's rejection of the name *Anas arcuata* Horsfield for the well-known Whistling Teal.

Rothschild on the name of a Parrot.

[On the names of certain Parrots of the genus *Larius* Bodd. = *Eclectus* Wagl. By Lord Rothschild, F.R.S. Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (9) ix. 1922, p. 411.]

Lord Rothschild finds that the Red and Green Eclectus Parrot, called *roratus* by P. L. S. Müller, is founded on descriptions of a bird by Vosmaer said to have come from Ceylon, but Müller gives Amboina in the southern Moluccas. Salvadori, however, passed the name over to the bird from the northern Moluccas. In this action Lord Rothschild argues that he is wrong and Müller's name must be retained for the southern Molucca bird, while the northern one requires a new one. Lord Rothschild proposes to call it *Larius roratus vosmaeri*. It appears that *Larius* Bodd. (probably a misprint for *Lorius*) must be used instead of the better-known *Eclectus* for this group of birds.

Sherborn's Index Animalium.

[Index Animalium sive Index nominum quæ ab A.D. MDCCLVIII. generibus et speciebus animalium imposita sunt societatibus eruditorum adjuvantibus a Carolo Davies Sherborn confectus. Sectio secunda a Kalendis Januariis MDCCCI. usque ad finem Decembris MDCCCL. Part i. Introduction, Bibliography, and Index, A—App. pp. 1–128. London (Trustees Brit. Mus.), 1922. 8vo. Price 20s.]

For over thirty years Mr. Sherborn has laboured at the gigantic task of bringing together in one work a list of all the generic and specific names which have been proposed

for animals. The first portion of the work, dealing with names given between the years 1758 and 1800, was published by the Cambridge University Press in 1902, and is well known to all systematic workers as a mine of information about the earlier names in zoology. The present is the first instalment of the second portion of the work as planned, and deals with all the generic and specific names which appeared between 1801 and 1850. The earlier part of Mr. Sherborn's work was carried out with the support of the British Association, with occasional assistance from the Royal Society and the Zoological Society. From 1912 onwards, the Trustees of the British Museum have found the modest sums required to carry on the work, and now it has been completed we may perhaps express our profound gratitude to the compiler, and our appreciation of the enormous amount of labour entailed in the completion of his task.

Following the explanatory introduction is a modest list covering one and a half pages of "libri desiderati"—works which Mr. Sherborn has been unable himself to consult; and then follows the bibliography of the works which he has been able to consult, occupying one hundred and seventeen pages. This is one of the most valuable parts of the work, as the dates of publication have been most carefully investigated and are given often with short but very useful comments. Finally, a commencement is made with the Index itself. In this the generic and specific names are arranged alphabetically with full reference and date of publication.

The work is very well printed by the Cambridge University Press for the Trustees of the Museum and is singularly clear and easy to read, and should find a place on the book-shelf of every worker in Systematic Zoology.

Swann on the Accipitres.

[A Synopsis of the Accipitres (Diurnal Birds of Prey). 2nd ed. revised and corrected throughout, pp. viii+233. London (Wheldon & Wesley), 1921-1922. 8vo. 4 pts., at 6s. each.]

The second edition of Mr. Swann's work on the Accipitres

is now completed. It contains a great deal of additional matter, as it consists of 233 pages against 164 and many corrections and improvements, and will undoubtedly prove of great use to all systematic workers, and especially to students of the Birds of Prey. The type-species of the genera are now given and the type-localities of the species, both of which greatly increase the usefulness of the work. There are a good number of new subspecies described in the Synopsis itself, in addition to those recently proposed in the 'Auk' and the Bull. B. O. C., to which attention should be directed. We notice the Desert Buzzard, formerly known as *Buteo desertorum*—so common in Africa in winter, now stands as *B. vulpinus vulpinus* Gloger, and is regarded as a distinct species from *B. buteo buteo*, while the curious forest Buzzard of eastern Europe becomes *B. v. intermedius* Menz. vice *B. zimmermannæ* Ehm.

Swarth on a new race of the Dusky Grouse.

[The Sitkan race of the Dusky Grouse. By H. G. Swarth. Condor, xxiii, 1921, pp. 59-60.]

The hen of the Dusky Grouse of south-eastern Alaska differs from that of Vancouver Island and farther south in its more pronounced reddish tinge, and Mr. Swarth proposes to name it *Dendragapus obscurus sitkensis*, subsp. n. In the male sex the difference from *D. o. fuliginosus* is inappreciable.

Todd on the Tyrannidæ.

[Studies in the Tyrannidæ. II. The restricted genus *Myiobius*. By W. E. Clyde Todd. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 35, 1922, pp. 17-38.]

This, the second essay of the author on the Tyrant-birds, deals with the South American genus *Myiobius*. There is a careful revision of the species and subspecies—the former seven, the latter four in number—one of which, *M. villosus peruvianus*, is new. In most cases the material on which the revision is based is extensive, and the work will doubtless be most useful to all students of Neotropical birds.

Tollenaar on egg-laying in wild birds.

[Legperioden en eierproductie bij eenige wilde vogelsoorten, vergeleken met die bij hoenderrassen door D. Tollenaar. Med. Landbouwhoogeschool, Wageningen, vol. 23, pt. 2, pp. 1-46, 1922.]

In this paper, published by the Dutch Agricultural School, an attempt is made to deal with the factors that assist or retard the laying of eggs by wild birds, working with the same methods so successfully applied, chiefly in the United States, by Prof. Pearl and others to egg-production in the domestic fowl. The chief factor dealt with is the weather, not only in its direct effect on wild birds, but also in its indirect effect through its influence on insect-life, which is so important in the rearing of the broods of even the hard-billed birds.

Most of the observations were made on Tits, Redstarts, and Thrushes, and are shown plotted down on diagrams. At the end of the paper, which is written in Dutch, is an English *résumé* to enable foreign readers to follow the argument.

Van Oordt on Spitsbergen birds.

[Ornithological notes from Spitsbergen and northern Scandinavia, 1921. By Dr. G. J. van Oordt. With 1 text-figure and 4 plates. *Ardea*, x. 1921, pp. 129-170.]

It will be remembered that Mr. Jourdain and his party when they went to Spitsbergen last year met a Dutch ornithologist engaged in a similar mission, and that they were able to be of mutual assistance to one another. Dr. van Oordt, the Dutch ornithologist, has now published an account of his journey and a list of the birds he met with, and the eggs and skins he collected on behalf of the Zoological Museum, Amsterdam, and other Dutch museums. Dr. van Oordt spent most of his time at Cape Boheman on the northern side of Ice Fjord, where he was joined by the members of the Oxford Expedition on 12 July, and where he was able to show them the nests of the Phalarope and the King-Eider.

The greater part of the paper is taken up with a systematic

review of the birds (27 species out of 55 recorded) met with and with observations on their nesting and other habits and is illustrated with a number of photographs. Dr. van Oordt left Spitsbergen early in September and, landing at Narvik, travelled overland through Sweden to Stockholm, and he adds some notes on the birds seen by him during this journey.

Van Oort on the Birds of Holland.

[Oologica Neerlandica. De Vogels van Nederland. Door Dr. E. D. van Oort. Pts. 10-12, 30 pls. 's Gravenhage (Nijhoff), 1922. 4to.]

The last part of Dr. van Oort's great work on the birds of Holland contains only plates, no text. These, thirty in number, deal with the Birds of Prey, Game-birds, Shore-birds, Rails, and the Crane, and fully uphold the standard set in the previous parts already noticed (Ibis, 1919, p. 552, and 1922, p. 205).

Wetmore's recent papers.

[Three new birds of the family Tinamidæ from South America. By Alexander Wetmore. Journ. Wash. Acad. Sci. vol. 11, pp. 434-437, 1921.]

[Description of a *Brachyspiza* from the Chaco of Argentine and Paraguay. *Ibid.* Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 35, pp. 39-40, 1922.]

[A new genus and four new subspecies of American birds. By Alexander Wetmore and James L. Peters. *Ibid.* pp. 41-46.]

The new Timamous are *Rhynchotus arcanus* from Parana, Argentina, *Nothura maculosa savannarum* from Uruguay, and *Calopezus elegans albidis* from San Juan, Argentina. In the second paper is described *Brachispiza capensis mellea* from Paraguay, and in the third a new genus *Teledromas* allied to *Rhinocrypta* Gray, and new races of *Dendrocygna*, *Colaptes*, *Brachyspiza*, and *Saltator*. The first of these, *Dendrocygna bicolor helva*, is proposed for the North and Central American Tree-Duck, which the authors believe is distinguishable from that inhabiting southern South America and which retains the original name. They do not state their views in regard to the African examples of the species.

Report of the Felstead School Scientific Society.

[Report of the Felstead School Scientific Society for the years 1920 and 1921, pp. 1-46. Chelmsford, 1922. 8vo.]

We are always glad to see the reports of school natural history societies, and there can be no doubt that such societies, when well conducted by a master with a taste for natural history, do a great deal to encourage a love of ornithology. Mr. J. H. Owen, who is a member of our Union, is the President of the Felstead society, and his beautiful photographic work is well known to most of us. In the present issue is an article on photographing the Great Crested Grebe and some notes on the nesting-habits, illustrated by photographs taken on Aston Lake in Shropshire by Mr. Owen. There are also two general reports on the bird-life observed near Felstead in 1919-20 and 1920-21. In this work Mr. Owen seems to have been indebted to many of his pupils for help.

*Contents of recent ornithological and other Journals.***Ardea**, vol. x. nos. 1-3, 1921.

- Blaauw, F. E.** Ornithological observations made between Buenos Aires and Santiago.
- Swaen, A. E. H.** Arrival and departure dates for the Common Swift in Holland.
- Reyne, A.** On the occurrence of the Cock-of-the-Rock (*Rupicola crocea*) in Surinam (Dutch Guiana).
- Sant, L. van 'T.** Statistical enquiry on the number of eggs in the clutch in the Blackbird, Song-Thrush, and Missel-Thrush.
- Oort, E. D. van.** Address on Bird-migration and Bird-ringing; also recent results of the bird-ringing in Holland.
- Pellinkhoff, J. H.** The Birds of Meppel and its environs.
- Bierans de Haan, J. A.** An old Journal of R. van Lennep in 1749, with entries of natural history observations.
- Oordt, G. J. van.** Ornithological notes from Spitsbergen and northern Scandinavia, 1921 (see p. 589).
- Beaufort, L. F. de.** Account of a collection of birds from N.E. Sumatra made by Dr. de Bussy, containing four species new to Sumatra.

Auk, vol. xxxix. no. 2, April 1922.

- Osgood, W. H. Memorial notice of C. B. Cory, with portrait.
- Jourdain, F. C. R. The breeding-habits of the Barnacle Goose in Spitsbergen, with a photograph.
- Saunders, A. A. Flight-songs and mating-songs.
- Daley, M. W. The birds of Frost Valley in the Catskill Mts., New York State.
- Kalmbach, E. R. A comparison of the feeding-habits and economics of the Starling in Great Britain and U.S.A., where it has now become abundant.
- Chapin, J. P. The function of the œsophagus in the Bittern's booming: an interesting suggestion as to the method by which the Bittern produces his loud note, with illustrations.
- Preble, E. A. A memoir of Roderick Ross Macfarlane, 1833-1920, an old factor of the Hudson Bay Company, who did much to extend our knowledge of the geography and fauna of the northern part of the North-American Continent.
- Baldwin, S. P. Account of his activities in bird-banding in 1921, with photographs.
- Rowan, W. Bird-notes from the Lake of the Woods, Manitoba.
- Wilson, G. Bird-notes from Bowling Green, Kentucky.
- Oberholser, H. C. Seventh annual list of suggested or proposed changes in the A. O. U. Check-list.

Austral Avian Record, vol. iv. no. 6, Aug. 1921,
and no. 7, March 1922.

- Mathews, G. M. Additions and corrections to the List of the Birds of Australia, 1913, and to the Check-List, pt. 1, 1920.
- Mathews, G. M., and Iredale, T. Various notes, chiefly bibliographical and nomenclatural.
- —. Account of James Jennings's Ornithologia—a poem in two parts, published in 1828.
- —. Bibliography and contents of two rare works:—
"The Miscellany of Natural History, vol. i. Parrots," by Sir Thos. D. Lauder and Capt. Thos. Brown, published in 1833, and "Illustrations of the Genera of Birds," by Capt. Thos. Brown, 1845.

Avicultural Magazine (3), vol. xiii. nos. 1-4,
Jan.-Apl. 1922.

- Hedges, F. G. Breeding of the Gang-gang Cockatoo (*Callocephalon galeatum*) in captivity, with two sketches.
 Takatsukasa, N. Aviculture in Japan.
 Duchess of Wellington. Breeding Gouldian Finches.
 Blaauw, F. E. About Birds in North America.
 Currey, Mrs. Birds in a garden near London.
 Wormald, H. Colour-change in the Golden Plover.

Bird-Lore, vol. xxiv. no. 2, Mch. & Apl. 1922.

- Hill, G. A. When the birds come north.
 Abbott, C. G. The friendly Phœbe, with photos.
 Bartlett, M. A. Caught in a spring-time blizzard.
 Sherman, M. B. Nesting-habits of a South-American Parrot (*Myiopsitta monacha*) in a feral state in garden at Ogdensburg, N.Y.
 Oberholser, H. C., and Chapman, F. M. On the migrations and plumages of the Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius*), with coloured plate.

Bird-Notes (3), vol. v. nos. 2-4, Feb.-Apl. 1922.

- Reeve, J. S. My aviaries and birds, with photos.
 Baily, W. S. The Great Tinamou (*Rhynchotus rufescens*), with photos.
 Tavistock, Marquis of. Some notes on Crimson-wing Parrakeets (*Ptilines erythropterus*).
 Page, W. T. My Yellow-winged Sugar-birds (*Cœreba cyanea*), with photos and sketches.
 Baily, W. S. Tragopans, with photos.
 Porter, J. W. Shama, the best song-bird.
 Whistler, H. Diary of a voyage from Karachi to Marseilles, 1920.

Brooklyn Museum Quarterly, vol. ix. no. 2,
Apl. 1922.

- Murphy, R. C. The Sea-coast and Islands of Peru; ninth article.

Canadian Field-Naturalist, vol. xxxvi. nos. 1 & 2,
Jan. & Feb. 1922 (published Mch. 11 and Apl. 4).

- Munro, J. A. The Band-tailed Pigeon in British Columbia.
——. Additional notes on the winter birds of the Okenagan Valley, British Columbia.
- Thompson, S. I. Ornithological occurrences in Toronto, Ontario, January 1922.
- Munro, J. A. A proposed bird-sanctuary in British Colombia. Swan lake, near Vernon, is the proposed site.
——. The Japanese Starling (*Acridotheres cristatellus*) naturalized in Vancouver, British Columbia.
- Beaupre, E. The Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus anatum*).

Condor, vol. xxiv. nos. 1 & 2, Jan.—Feb. and
Mch.—Apl. 1922.

- Pemberton, J. R. The Reddish Egrets (*Dichromanassa rufescens*) of Cameron County, Texas; 9 photos.
- Berry, S. S. Magpies *versus* Livestock: an unfortunate new chapter in Avian depredations; 2 photos — Magpies attacking sheep in western U.S.A.
- Skinner, M. P. Notes on the Dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus unicolor*) in Yellowstone National Park.
- Jackson, H. H. T. Some birds of Roosevelt lake, Arizona; map and one photo.
- Pemberton, J. R. A large Tern Colony in Texas; 11 photos.
- Mailliard, J. Notes on Fox-Sparrows (*Passerella iliaca*) in California in the autumn of 1921.
- Stoner, E. A. A study of the roosting-holes of the Red-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes auratus collaris*); 3 figs.
- Averill, C. K. A law governing the elevation of the nesting-site.

Emu, vol. xxi. pt. 3, Jan. 1922.

- Campbell, A. J. *Cinclosoma alisteri* (Mathews), the Black-throated Ground-bird, with coloured plate.
- White, H. L. Two new subspecies—*Gymnorhina tibicen eylandtensis* from Northern Territory, and *Geophaps scripta peninsulæ* from Cape York Peninsula.
——. Descriptions of new nests and eggs; also abnormal and curious combination clutches.

- Whitlock, F. L. Notes from the Nullarbor Plain on the borders of south and western Australia, with many photos and account of the discovery of the new Parrot (*Psephotus narethæ*).
- Campbell, A. J. Some birds of Groote Eylandt, Northern Territory, with observations from the diary of Wm. McLennan; photos.
- Stuart-Sutherland, R. Types of the Australasian genera of Penguins; figs. of heads.
- Falla, R. A. Notes on Petrels washed ashore, West coast, Auckland Province, N.Z.
- Ashby, E. The White-plumed Honey-eater (*Meliphaga penicillata* Gould) and its various subspecies.
Account of the annual congress at Sydney and the subsequent camp-out at Lake Wallis in October last.
- Campbell, A. J. Some remarks on renaming birds and the rules of zoological nomenclature.

Fauna och Flora, for 1922, no. 2.

- Lönnerberg, E. Note on a curious flock of Ravens living to the number of 400-500 for some years in a wood all the year round and not breeding.

**Irish Naturalist, vol. xxxi. nos. 4 & 5,
Apr. & May 1922.**

- Harrison, A. The Bird-life of Dublin City.

**Jaarbericht, Club van Nederl. Vogelk. vol. xii.
pt. 2, 1922.**

- De Vries, T. G. Various notes on the eggs of Dutch Ducks.
Van Dedem. Hawking in Holland.

**Journal of the Natural History Society of Siam,
vol. iv. no. 3, Nov. 1921.**

- Kloss, C. B. A new race of Nutmeg Pigeon from Pulo Condore—*Myristicivora bicolor condorensis*.
- Williamson, W. J. F. The Giant Ibis (*Thaumatibis gigantea*) in Cambodia.

Norsk Ornithologisk Tidsskrift, no. 2, 1921-22.

Coloured plates of curious varieties of *Lyrurus tetrix*.

Hals. Goshawk nesting on the ground.

Schaanning, H. T. L. On the birds of Oplands—a district in central part of southern Norway; photos.

Jensen, A. An invasion of *Acanthis linaria* in winter.

Lie-Pettersen, O. J. Field-notes on *Crex crex*.

Schaanning, H. T. L. Bird-ringing results in Norway; also a review of the late Prof. Collett's work on Norwegian birds, completed by O. Olsen, recently published. Most of the information is said to be copied direct from Hartert's 'Palæarctic Birds.'

Oologists' Record, vol. ii. no. 1, Mch. 1922.

James, H. W. Notes on the breeding-habits of South African Sand-Plovers.

Edwards, H. A. A nest of the American Peregrine Falcon (*F. p. anatum*).

Young, C. J. Bird-life by Lake Ontario.

Horsbrugh, C. R. Some notes on European and African Vultures.

Ornithologische Monatsberichte, vol. 30, nos. 2 & 3,
Mch. & May 1922.

Bacmeister, W. The food of the Swift (*Microtus apus*).

Stresemann, E., and Plessen, Baron V. von. Remarks on some birds of southern Holstein.

Brinkmann, M. The distribution of *Serinus canaria germanicus* in Lower Saxony.

Stresemann, E. Description of *Trichoglossus hæmatodus chlorogenys* and *Ailurodus melanotis guttaticollis*, new subspecies from New Guinea.

Schlegel, R. Note on the occurrence of *Parus atricapillus salicarius* in the Saxon Erzgebirge.

Granvik, H. *Ploceus insignis ornatus* and *Otyphantes reichenowi nigrotemporalis*, new subspecies described from Kenya Colony.

Stresemann, E. Bird-notes in the Bavarian Alps, between the Isar and the Lech.

- Hellmayr, C. E. *Scytalopus atratus*, Columbia: *S. griseicollis fuscicauda*, Venezuela; *S. latebricola caracæ*, Venezuela; and *S. l. meridanus*, W. Venezuela, new species and subspecies described.
- Schweppenbug, H. Frh. Geyr von. Note on the definition of a subspecies.
- Weigold, H. *Muscicapa (Alseonax) muthei stotzneri* and *Brachypteryx nipalensis harteri*, new subspecies from China described.
- Stresemann, E. Corrections in the nomenclature of South-African Owls; and *Oriolus traillii mellianus*, new subspecies from China described.

Revue Francaise d'Ornithologie, vol. 14,
nos. 155-157, Mch.-May 1922.

- Lavauden, L. Further discussion of the characters of the new Hawk (*Falco blancheti*) from Tunis, with illustrations.
- Chabot, F. Note on premature migrations owing to exceptional temperature in 1921.
- Arnault, Dr. On the formation of bird-reserves.
- Chabot, F. Notes on birds observed in the Department of the Somme.
- Menegaux, A. On the use made by birds of the small stones and grains of sand swallowed by them.
- Millet-Horsin, Dr. Guide for bird-lovers arriving in French West Africa.

Scottish Naturalist, nos. 121-124, Jan.-Apl. 1922.

- Evans, W. Edinburgh Rookeries in 1921.
- Wild, O. H. A Scottish method of bird-catching.

Revue d'Histoire naturelle appliquée—L'Oiseau,
vol. iii. no. 3, Mch. 1922.

- Crandall, L. S. The display of *Paradisea rudolphi* Finsch, translated into French from the original article in the Bulletin of the New York Zoological Society.
- Millet-Horsin, Dr. Recollections of a naturalist in French West Africa.
- Astley, H. D. Avicultural notes, with photo.

South Australian Ornithologist, vol. vi. nos. 5 & 6,
Jan. & Apl. 1922.

- White, S. A. Description of *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa* — Yellow-rumped Tit.
- Morgan, A. M. Observations on birds in north-western Australia.
- Chenery, A. Notes on birds seen during a recent visit to the Western Darling, N.S.W.
- McGilp, J. N. Notes by the late Dr. Angrove, Tea-tree Gully, S.A.
- White, S. A. Description of *Psephotus haematonotus*—Red-backed Parrot.
- Morgan, A. M. A trip to the Baudin Rocks.

Tori, vol. iii. nos. 12 & 13, Mch. 1922.

- FRONTISPIECE.—Photographs of ornithologists who have contributed to our knowledge of Japanese Ornithology.
- Takatsukasa, Prince N., and Kuroda, N. A new generic name, *Neocalophasis*, proposed for the Mikado Pheasant (*Calophasis mikado* O.-Grant).
- Matsudaira, Viscount Y. On the moulting of Gulls.
- Kuroda, N. Birds in the vicinity of Shizuura, Suruga, with map and photographs.
- Hachisuka, M. On *Chaunoproctus ferreirostris*; 2 photos.
- Momiyama, T. Notes on some birds from Hachijo Island.
- Enomoto, Y. Method of flight of *Aquila chrysaetos*; figs.
- Fujita. Birds of Shikoku.
- Nibe, J. Anomalies of egg-marking.
- Hachisuka, M. Pheasants in Britain, with a plate.

XXXIII.—*Letters, Extracts, and Notes.*

The Hermit Ibis in the Sudan.

SIR,—On the 11th of February, 1922, when about six to eight miles south of Singa on the Blue Nile, I saw several hundred, perhaps over one thousand in all, individuals of this species (*Comatibis eremita*). I shot one, a male; the skin is now in the Giza Zoological Museum.